



A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: Colossians 1:1-8

Message for the Week: "The Triumph of the Gospel"

Sunday, February 19

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

What is some good news you received this week?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Colossians 1:1-8](#) out loud.

(Clicking this link will bring you to multiple translations.)

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

In what way is the gospel bearing fruit in your heart and life?

In what way is the gospel bearing fruit in the heart and life of Covenant Church?

How do you understand God's grace? How would you explain it or describe it to someone else?

Who taught you about God's grace?

What do you think Covenant Church is known for in our community? Are we known for our faith in Jesus Christ? The love that we have for all of God's people? Other things?

Try It:

Spend some time this week thanking God for and praying for the people in your life who taught you about God's grace.

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Pray this prayer together:

Our Father in Heaven, thank You for the living, powerful, and glorious gospel of Christ, which was planted in our hearts by many faithful witnesses. We pray that as we live our lives each day, we too may be good and faithful servants and witnesses to the good news of the Gospel. Enable us to abide in Your love, day by day. Enable us to bear the precious fruit of faith, love, hope, and righteousness and spread the gospel throughout the whole world. In Jesus' name I pray, AMEN.

Missional/Spiritual Practice for February: Holy Curiosity for the Other

During the month of February, you are invited and encouraged to engage in the missional practice of [Holy Curiosity for the Other](#). By engaging in this practice, we seek to create safe and inviting space in meaningful conversation with others. This involves us risking new and deeper relationships with the people we meet in the context of their lives, developing a holy curiosity that transcends your own needs for affirmation or expression and calls you into full attentiveness and discovery of another person's life and story. When we provide safe, inviting, and prayerful space for another to share, transformative encounters with God and one another occur over time

Colossians 1:1-8

New International Version

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
² To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters^[a] in Christ:
Grace and peace to you from God our Father.^[b]

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people— ⁵ the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. ⁷ You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant,^[a] who is a faithful minister of Christ on our^[b] behalf, ⁸ and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

The Message

¹⁻² I, Paul, have been sent on special assignment by Christ as part of God's master plan. Together with my friend Timothy, I greet the Christians and stalwart followers of Christ who live in Colosse. May everything good from God our Father be yours!

³⁻⁵ Our prayers for you are always spilling over into thanksgivings. We can't quit thanking God our Father and Jesus our Messiah for you! We keep getting reports on your steady faith in Christ, our Jesus, and the love you continuously extend to all Christians. The lines of purpose in your lives never grow slack, tightly tied as they are to your future in heaven, kept taut by hope.

⁵⁻⁸ The Message is as true among you today as when you first heard it. It doesn't diminish or weaken over time. It's the same all over the world. The Message bears fruit and gets larger and stronger, just as it has in you. From the very first day you heard and recognized the truth of what God is doing, you've been hungry for more. It's as vigorous in you now as when you learned it from our friend and close associate Epaphras. He is one reliable worker for Christ! I could always depend on him. He's the one who told us how thoroughly love had been worked into your lives by the Spirit.